

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets 1/3, 2/3, and 3/3 replace original sheets 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4.

In FIG. 2 on sheet 2/3, the proper cross-section hatching is provided.

In FIG. 3 on sheet 2/3, the conductive sleeve 340 is shown as surrounding the periphery of the spacer 330.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets 1/3, 2/3, and 3/3

Annotated Sheets 2/4 and 3/4 showing changes in green

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the instant application are as follows:

- The drawings are objected to.
- Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.
- Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); and
- Claims 24-25 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant traverses all the outstanding objections and rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Amendments to the Claims

All the claims have been amended by removing "test" from the preamble. The Examiner has kindly pointed out that there is no difference in structure and material between a test cable and any other cable.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a conductive sleeve . . . with the first end physically and electrically coupled to the center conductor; a dielectric spacer . . . for preventing another portion of the center conductor from physically and electrically coupling to the conductive sleeve". These changes are based on FIG. 2 and 3 and the accompanying description on paragraphs [0014] to [0025] of the specification as filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Claims 22 and 25 have been amended to specify a flexible joint. These changes are based on FIGs. 1-4 and the accompanying descriptions. See also paragraph [0009] of the specification as filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment was made for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant had argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets 1/3, 2/3, and 3/3 replace original sheets 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. In FIG. 2 on sheet 2/3, the proper cross-section hatching is provided. In FIG. 3 on sheet 2/3, the conductive sleeve 340 is shown as surrounding the periphery of the spacer 330. Corrections to the drawings, shown in green, are enclosed for review by the Examiner. If the changes are not acceptable, please contact Applicant to discuss the issues.

35 U.S.C. § 112(2)

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; namely, the phrase "for preventing a portion of the center conductor from electrically coupling to the conductive sleeve" as used in independent claim 1 lines 7-9 is considered indefinite.

Claim 1 lines 7-9 are amended to recite "for preventing another portion of the center conductor from physically and electrically coupling to the conductive sleeve". Additionally, claim 1 lines 5-6 have been amended to specify a conductive sleeve with the first end physically and electrically coupling to the center conductor. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2) in light of amended claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Takahashi in view of Gothe

Claims 1-9, 14-17, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,957) in view of Gothe (U.S. Patent No. 2,018,353). Takahashi shows a conductive core wire 2 surrounded by a conductive outer pipe 1 shorted to each other via a conductive shorting plate 3. Gothe shows a wire T surrounded by insulation beads P all inside a metal foil envelope A.

Takahashi and Gothe are at cross-purposes with each other. Takahashi presumes a straight wire with a straight pipe. Gothe desires flexibility. Thus, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the rigid construction of Takahashi with the flexible construction of Gothe.

Nonetheless, and for the sake of argument, combining Takahashi and Gothe might result in insulation beads surrounding a wire inside a conductive outer pipe, but Takahashi and Gothe fail to show or suggest "a dielectric joint, coupled to the second end of the conductive sleeve, for positioning a portion of the center conductor in a middle of the second end" as recited in claim 1. Again, this points out the inherent contradiction in the purposes of Takahashi and Gothe. Nowhere does Takahashi suggest joints like the flexible joints disclosed in the present application. Gothe's flexibility is not achieved through joints.

Thus, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Takahashi and Gothe. Claims 2-9, 14-17, and 19-21 depend directly or indirectly upon independent claim 1 and thus are also not obvious in view of Takahashi and Gothe. Furthermore, regarding claims 5 and 21, the insulation beads are listed in Gothe as being made of quartz, steatite, glass, porcelain, etc., which are all rigid dielectric materials. There is no motivation to use a compressible dielectric material, and no design choice evident in the cited references would lead a person to replace the rigid dielectric materials listed in Gothe with compressible dielectric materials unless (using impermissible hindsight) that person was using the dielectric material as part of a dielectric joint. Applicant respectfully requests

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 14-17, and 19-21 in view of Takahashi and Gothe.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Takahashi in view of Sakugari

Claims 1 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,957) in view of Sakugari et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,396,797). Takahashi shows a conductive core wire 2 surrounded by a conductive outer pipe 1 shorted to each other via a conductive shorting plate 3. Sakugari shows pipes 4, 5, 6 surrounding a flexible cable 3.

Takahashi is also at cross-purposes with Sakugari. Sakugari desires a flexible cable while Takahashi desires a rigid cable. Thus, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the rigid construction of Takahashi with the flexible construction of Sakugari.

Nonetheless, and for the sake of argument, combining Takahashi and Sakugari might result in synthetic resin pipes surrounding a wire inside a conductive outer pipe, but Takahashi and Sakugari fail to show or suggest "a dielectric joint, coupled to the second end of the conductive sleeve, for positioning a portion of the center conductor in a middle of the second end" as recited in claim 1. Again, this points out the inherent contradiction in the purposes of Takahashi and Sakugari. Nowhere does Takahashi suggest joints like the flexible joints disclosed in the present application. Sakugari's flexible pipes would be inside Takahashi's rigid pipe and thus there would be no dielectric joint as recited in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Takahashi and Sakugari. Claims 10-13 depend directly or indirectly upon independent claim 1 and thus are also not obvious in view of Takahashi and Sakugari. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 10-13 in view of Takahashi and Sakugari.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Takahashi in view of Leitner

Claims 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,957) in view of Leitner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,106,599). Takahashi shows a conductive core wire 2 surrounded by a conductive outer pipe 1 shorted to each other via a conductive shorting plate 3. Leitner shows a rigid coaxial transmission line with a rigid connection between outer conductors 11.

Takahashi and Leitner are both rigid cables. Thus, it is evident that Takahashi combined with Leitner lack the flexible joint recited in claim 22 as amended. Claim 22 is not obvious in view of Takahashi and Sakugari. Claim 23 depends directly upon independent claim 22 and thus is also not obvious in view of Takahashi and Leitner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-23 in view of Takahashi and Leitner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner has indicated that claims 24-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant also acknowledges that the Examiner has indicated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2) and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

S U M M A R Y

The application is in condition for allowance and a favorable response at an early date is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number indicated below.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to
Deposit Account 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET
3/4

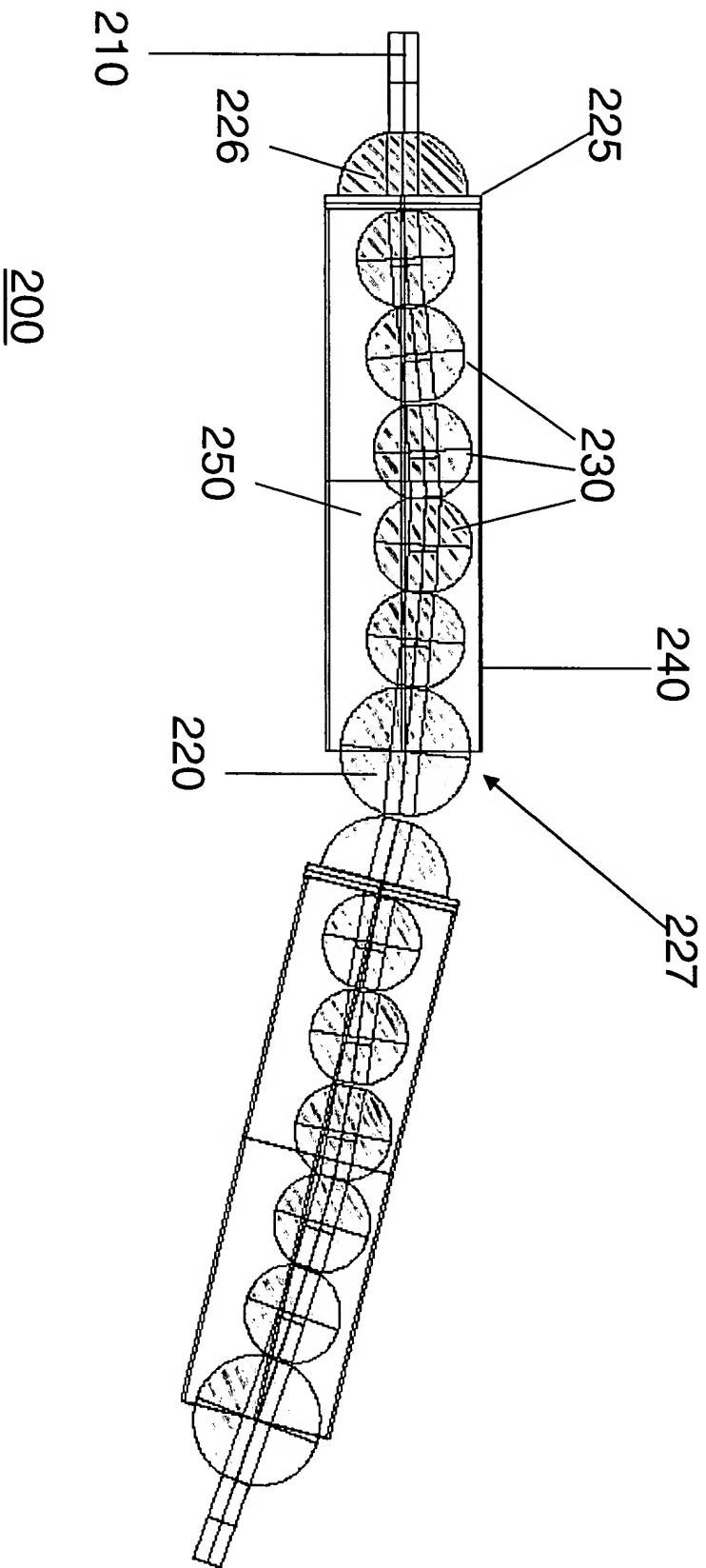


FIG. 2

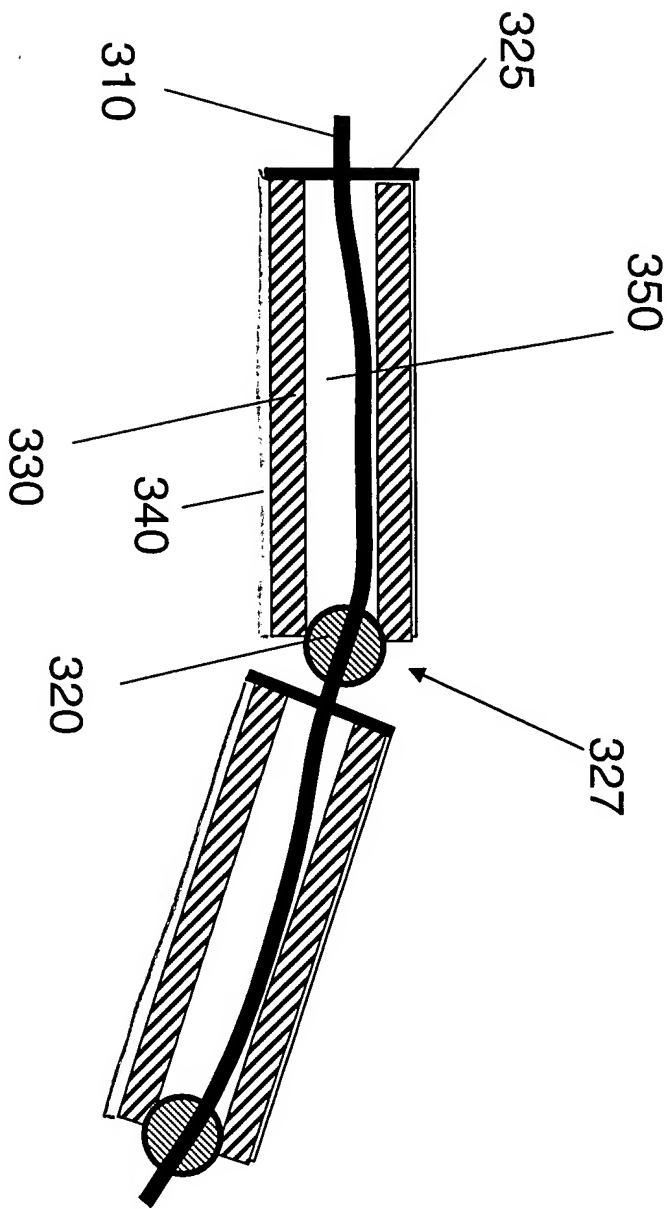


FIG. 3

300